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Message Text

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PAGE 01 MATAMO 00051 142021Z
ACTION SCS-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 CA-01 HA-05 INSE-00 PA-02
JUSE-00 L-03 SS-15 NSC-05 ICA-20 /072 W
----------058459 151600Z /72
R 141614Z JUN 78
FM AMCONSUL MATAMOROS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 432
INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

UNCLAS MATAMOROS 0051

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, CGEN, MX
SUBJECT: FEDERAL INVESTIGATION INTO DEATH OF MEXICAN-AMERICAN
AT PROGRESO BRIDGE

SUMMARY: LOCAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY HAS REQUESTED FEDERAL INVESTIGATION INTO DEATH OF PREGNANT MEXICAN-AMERICAN DURING INTERROGATION BY IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS AT INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE AT PROGRESO, TEXAS. END SUMMARY.

1. ON MAY 18, 1978 A MEXICAN-AMERICAN FEMALE RESIDENT OF WESLACO, TEXAS DIED OF APPARENT HEART ATTACK WHILE BEING QUESTIONED BY U.S. IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES AT INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE IN PROGRESO, TEXAS. THE WOMAN WAS PREGNANT AND THE BABY ALSO DIED.

2. SUBJECT'S FAMILY STATED IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES HAD BEEN RUDE AND MEAN AND CAUSED HER DEATH. ALSO THEY STATED THAT AUTHORITIES DID NOT TRY TO GET MEDICAL HELP IMMEDIATELY.

3. IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES ISSUED A STATEMENT THAT THE WOMAN WAS BEING QUESTIONED BY AUTHORITIES BECAUSE SHE WAS ATTEMPTING TO ENTER WITH UNDOCUMENTED MEXICAN WOMAN, THAT THE INTERROGATION DID NOT EMPLOY EXTRAORDINARY PROCEDURES, AND THAT AS SOON AS IT WAS APPARENT THAT THE WOMAN WAS IN
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DISTRESS AN AMBULANCE WAS CALLED. IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS IN EFFECT CLEARED THEIR AGENCY OF ANY BLAME IN THIS EVENT.

4. MATTER SEEMED TO BE SETTLED UNTIL JUNE 11 WHEN A GROUP OF UNITED FARM WORKERS DEMONSTRATED AT THE PROGRESO BRIDGE. THEY STATED THEY WERE GOING TO TRY TO BLOCK THE BRIDGE BUT AS IT TURNED OUT ONLY DEMONSTRATED AND TEMPORARILY TOOK POSSESSION

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OF ONE OF THE OFFICES. THEY DEMANDED A NEW INVESTIGATION INTO THE OFFICER. ON JUNE 13 ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY CANALES ORDERED A NEW FEDERAL INVESTIGATION INTO THE AFFAIR. THIS SEEMED TO SATISFY FARM WORKERS.

5. NO PROTESTS OR DEMONSTRATIONS HAVE TAKEN PLACE ON THE MEXICAN SIDE AND THERE HAS BEEN VERY LITTLE MENTION OF THE INCIDENT ON LOCAL NEWSPAPERS.
LUEDERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEATHS, POLICE INVESTIGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MATAMO00051
Document Source: CORE
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2359269
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FEDERAL INVESTIGATION INTO DEATH OF MEXICAN-AMERICAN AT PROGRESO BRIDGE SUMMARY: LOCAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY HAS REQUESTED FE
TAGS: PINT, CGEN, CDES, MX
To: STATE
Type: TE
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